

greater sand plover *Charadrius leschenaultii* have not been studied extensively, as they migrate along the Australasian flyway which has not been monitored earlier. Other related species such as kentish plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*, little ringed plover *Charadrius dubius*, and ringed plover *Charadrius hiaticula* have been studied extensively along the East Atlantic flyway and their longevity have been documented based on the ringing and recapture dates. However, the recorded longevity period for the above three

species is about 10 years (Cramp and Simmons 1983, THE BIRDS OF THE WESTERN PALAEARCTIC, Vol. 3.). Hence, the present longevity record of 20 years for the lesser sand plover is the longest among all the plovers.

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11. SIGHTING OF LITTLE GULL *LARUS MINUTUS* PALLAS AT BHAVNAGAR NEW PORT, GUJARAT

Since the late Dr Salim Ali reported seeing flocks of *Larus minutus* (JBNHS 71: 609-610) in the Great Rann of Kachchh, in 1956, 1957 and 1960, we have come across them [10 km, SE. of Bhavnagar City (21° 46' N, 72° 11' E)] on January 12, 1992. Three individuals of these birds in a flock of Brownheaded Gulls, *L. brunnicephalus* were seen. They were half the size of the Brownheads, and had a black bill, an indistinct spot behind eye, light grey on the wings and white on rest of the body.

This gull is an accidental vagrant to the In-

dian subcontinent, there being only one specimen collected by Walter Koelz from Ladakh.

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12. DUETTING IN THE GREAT HORNED OWL, *BUBO NIPALENSIS* HODGSON (STRIGIFORMES: STRIGIDAE)

(With a text-figure)

While staying at Nagarahole National Park, Karnataka from 7-13 February 1990 the senior author had the opportunity to record owl calls which were made intermittently near his bungalow almost every night. The calls were recorded around 0300 hours on 8 February with a Sony Walkman Professional Model WM-D6 and an ECM- 929LT stereo microphone. On listening to the recording the next morning I was surprised to find that the three note call had a distinctive stereophonic effect with the first and third notes being of lower amplitude than the middle note, which came from a different direction. A total of 10 calls were recorded, 7 consisted of three notes, and 3 consisted of single notes. The single note

calls are identical to the first element of the three note calls. It seems quite clear on listening to the recording that there are two owls vocalizing, although this was not apparent to my unaided ear when initially recording the owls. The single calls appear to be "prompting calls" or unanswered duets; our interpretation of the recording is as follows: when bird B answered the first note, bird A always produced the third note of the sequence.

To examine spectral and temporal features, we analyzed the calls with a Kay Elemetrics DSP 5500 Sona-Graph. Notes one and three of the seven hypothesized duets were similar in amplitude and frequency, while the intervening note was always louder and of lower frequency